

# EX PARTE OR LATE FILED (800) 982-6898

Date: 5/1/2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Jonathan Chambers
Federal Communications Commission
445 12 Street, SW 20024
Washington, DC

Received & Inspected

MAY - 72014

FCC Mail Room

Expression of Interest-Rural Broadband Experiments Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners and Mr. Chambers

Ultimate Internet Access, Inc expresses our interest to participate in the Rural Broadband Experiments announced at the January 30 FFC Open Meeting. We understand that our submittal is beyond your timeline, but we did not learn of this program until a few weeks ago and though the timeline was set, we ask exception for the consideration of the region that we were in the process of research and analyzing at the same time you had requested Docket 10-90. We have completed our study and feel this project is a program fit you would support.

# Company Background

Ultimate Internet Access, Inc was established in 1996 to provide business and commercial High Speed Internet in the region of Southern California from the East Side of Los Angeles County to the Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties). We provide a variety of services to the industry backed by a 24/7 customer service/technical service department that will answer all calls within three rings. Our highly trained field crews also are available 24/7, which allows us to maintain a high customer retention and satisfaction.

Through discussion and the encouragement of the Inland Empire Broadband Consortium, last November we embarked upon a study of rural residential Internet in the San Bernardino High Desert that was completed this month. The result being the subject of this program we present today.

#### **Proposed Project Area**

The incorporated area for San Bernardino County primarily consists of the lower valley and three pocket areas of the High Desert consisting of the city of Needles, Barstow and the Victor Valley. The remainder of the High Desert is unincorporated communities and Bureau of Land Management stewardship property. West of the Victor Valley are the unincorporated twin communities of Phelan and Pinon Hills. The topography is a mixture of desert and foothills with an elevation between 2-5,000 ft. and several canyons throughout the foothills portion. The combined community base is defined by the 128-sq mile boundary of the Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District, which was established by the voters in February 2008. San Bernardino County provides all local services with the exception of water, parks and recreation plus solid waste, which are provided by the community services district as a form of local government.

The area is a growth primary area for San Bernardino County that will include light industrial, commercial and residential. The State of California is in the process of building the E-220 Corridor Freeway crossing this area as an interconnect between the Antelope and Victor Valleys for commerce of Copies rec'd and residential growth. Projected completion of the E-220 is 2020. Our project will provide



service to the Phelan residential population of 14,000 and the Pinion Hills residential population of 6,700.

2010 Census and current California research shows that Pinon Hills has 20% unemployment and 25% poverty level residents primarily retired senior citizens. Phelan has 12% unemployment and 15% poverty level residents.

## Proposed Technology

This project area primarily consist of rural 2 ½-acre and larger properties accessed through a network of dirt roads. The primary paved road infrastructure and a small surround area uses Verizon DSL serving approximately 15% of the community, while the remainder, with exception to some spot areas, is primarily serviced through Cell Hot Spots. The Digital Divide is significant in this area and we propose a Fiber-Optics system similar in design to the Google design in Austin Texas, which provide 1gig service to each user. We will phase the project concentrating upon core residential areas and widening the matrix throughout the community.

## Community Anchors

Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District: provides Water, Park and Recreation, Solid Waste to 6,800 homes will work with us as a customer and to serve the communities. They also provide computer 101 training at the Senior Center enabling the generation gap to close between seniors, children and grandchildren.

Snowline Joint Unified School District: has spearheaded a Virtual School enabling students to improve their grades and increase knowledge at any time of the day. They piloted the system 5 years ago primarily as a 9-12 grade level program. The success of the program raised the school district to the top regional district. They have expanded the Virtual School to include 3-12 grades with significant learning improvements. Their challenge is that 50% of the students do not have reasonable internet access at home and must use computers at the library or in a computer center at the high school. Their interest in partnering with us is to expand the internet interface and solidifying the education purpose.

Excelsior Charter School: this school provides a computer based alternative home study programs within the proposed area.

Phelan Chamber of Commerce: the core business based network and promotional organization with approximately 200 business members.

#### **Nature of Funding Request**

Ultimate Internet Access, Inc will provide true Broadband service to this area and using this as a base to serve the greater High Desert Unincorporated Region. The estimated cost of this project is \$ with timeframe of 3 years. We appreciate the FCC's interest in bringing advanced communications infrastructure to rural areas, and appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter of interest. Ultimate Internet Access, Inc looks forward to looks forward to working with you in making Rural America move to the forefront of technology.

Thank you,

Wes Zuber, CEO - Ultimate Internet Access, Inc

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